

Who is Jesus Christ (Isa Al-Masih)?

By Issam Khoury

Many people ask about Jesus Christ. Some say that he is a prophet. Others say that he is a great teacher. People ask why he is different from all the other prophets, and why he is unique. It is best to listen to the words of Jesus himself and what he announced and said about himself. Let me ask seven questions that lead us to discover who Jesus is.

First, to whom should we bow down or worship?

The Holy Bible (Tawrat, Zabur and Injil) and the Honorable Qur'an say that one should bow down to God alone.

- Deuteronomy 6:13 Fear the LORD your God, serve (worship) him only and take your oaths in his name.

Jesus quoted this verse to Satan (Al-Shaitan) when Satan offered to give Jesus all kingdoms of the world if Jesus would bow down before him.

- Luke 4:8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship (bow down to) the Lord your God and serve him only.'"
- Taha 20:14 It is I, Allah. I am the only god, so worship me and perform the prayers to remember me.
- Al-Aaraf 7:206 Those with your Lord are not too proud to worship him. They glorify him and bow down to him."

Could any prophet allow someone to bow down to him? But Jesus accepted others bowing down to him.

- Hebrews 1:6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."
- John 9:38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped (bowed down to) him.
- Matthew 28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped (bowed down to) him.

What does this mean to you that Jesus accepted people bowing down to him?

Second, who is the first and the last?

The Holy Bible and the Honorable Qur'an mention that God is the first and the last.

- Isaiah 44:6 This is what the LORD says ... I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.
- Al-Hadid 57:3 He is the First and the Last, the Obvious and the Hidden, and he is Allknowing.

We can conclude that this is one of the titles of God. Let us read what Jesus said about himself several times in the New Testament (Al-Injil).

- Revelation 2:8 And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the first and the last, who died and came to life again.

What does this mean to you that Jesus uses this title for himself?

Third, who can forgive sins?

There are many verses in the Old Testament (At-Tawrat) and the Honorable Qur'an that affirm that God is the one who forgives sins.

- Exodus 34:7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.
- Aal Imran 3:135 and those who, when they commit promiscuity or wrong themselves, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins. Who forgives sins except Allah? They do not knowingly persist in what they did.

But Jesus Christ announced that he had authority to forgive sins and showed that by healing a paralytic:

- Mark 2:10-11 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.... He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

What does it mean to you that Jesus had authority to forgive sins?

Fourth: Who is the judge on the day of judgment?

The Psalms, the Old Testament, and the Honorable Qur'an say that God is the judge.

- Psalm (Az-Zabur) 50:6 And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God himself is judge.
- Isaiah 33:22 For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.
- Al-Aaraf 7:87 If one group of you believed in my message and another group did not believe, endure until Allah judges among us. He is the best judge.

Jesus said about himself:

- Matthew 25:31,41 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory... Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."
- John 5:22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.

In other words, he will send some to heaven (Al-Janna) and others to hell (Jahannam).

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the judge of all?

Fifth: Who is the truth?

The Holy Bible and the Honorable Qur'an say that God is the truth.

- Psalm 31:5 Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.
- Al-Hajj 22:6 That is because Allah is the truth, and he gives life to the dead. He can do anything.

But Jesus said this when his apostle (hawary) Thomas asked him how to know the way to God:

- John 14:6a Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life.

Jesus clarified the meaning of his being the truth when he continued:

- John 14:6b No one comes to the Father except through me.

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the truth and the only way to God?

Sixth: Who gives life to the dead?

The Holy Bible and the Honorable Qur'an agree that Allah is the one who gives life to the dead.

- 1 Samuel 2:6 The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.
- Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.
- Al-Hajj 22:6 That is because Allah is true, and he gives life to the dead. He can do anything.

Can any other prophet say that he gives life to the dead? Jesus Christ said,

- John 5:21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

Jesus proved his power and authority to give life to the dead in three instances:

- 1) He gave life to the daughter of a Jewish (Yahudi) ruler (Matthew 9:23-25)
- 2) He gave life to the son of a widow (Luke 7:11-17)
- 3) He gave life to Lazarus (John 11:38-44)

What does it mean to you that Jesus Christ gives life to the dead?

Seventh: Who is without sin?

The Old Testament and the Honorable Qur'an agree that only God is holy (pure and free from sin).

- Leviticus 19:2 Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.
- Al-Hashr 59:23 He is Allah. He is the only god, King, Holy, Peace, Faithful, Sovereign, Mighty, Almighty, and Proud. May Allah be glorified above the gods they worship. But Jesus challenged the unbelieving Jews:
 - John 8:46a Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? In other words, no one can say that I sinned. Then he continued,
 - John 8:46b If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

What does it mean to you that Jesus Christ is sinless?

Summary: Let me summarize to you the seven attributes that the seven questions deal with.

We should worship and bow down to God.	Yet Jesus allowed people to bow down to him.
God is the first and the last.	Yet Jesus, the word of God, is the first and the last.
God forgives sins.	Yet Jesus had authority to forgive sins on earth.
God is the judge.	Yet Jesus was given all judgment.
God is the truth.	Yet Jesus is the truth that leads to God.
God gives life to the dead.	Yet Jesus gave life to the dead.
God is pure, holy, and sinless.	Yet Jesus is sinless.

Looking at these seven things logically and rationally, what do you think you should do about Jesus? And how will you answer the question Jesus asked His disciples in the gospel of Mark 8:27 and 29.

Jesus asked his disciples, "What do people say that I am?" After they had given Him some answers, He asked them, "But who do **YOU** say that I am?" **WHAT WILL YOUR ANSWER BE?**

Translated from Arabic by Jeff Hayes